

A Welcome To Cohasset

By Judith Epstein

One way to avoid the panic and unsettled feeling of moving into a new town and not knowing a soul in the area is to join the local Newcomer's Club, which is also known as the Welcome Wagon Club. They'll get you acquainted soon enough.

Although winding down to close for the summer the Scituate-Cohasset Welcome Wagon hostess in the respective towns will continue to contact newcomers during warm months when many people will make their move to the South Shore.

When the Welcome Wagon hostess calls (she usually acquires newcomers' phone numbers from real estate agencies), she welcomes the new residents to the town and invites them to the club's next meeting. Meetings are held once a month and membership is now at 147 men and women.

Newly appointed club president Mary Ann Devine, a Scituate resident of two years, said, "The club's major objectives are to help people new to the area to become acquainted with the community to provide an atmosphere of friendliness." She explained that while the club is primarily for those who are newcomers, the club's bylaws state that a person in any changing situation such as moving within a community, becoming engaged, or having a new baby, would benefit from membership.

Though membership is at a high, the numbers are, of course, changing all the time, as people may join and then drop membership, as they become more comfortable in the town. Mary Ann noted that while there is no limit to the length of time members may stay in the club, after three years they can't become board members.

Members are required to pay dues and are obliged to attend monthly meetings. However, interest groups within the club are really what bring people together, Mary Ann said. The interest groups are held both day and night, for men and women, and usually meet once a month so that activities don't conflict. The groups include a wide variety of subjects including: antiques and decorating; arts, crafts and needlework; bowling; bridge groups; couples gourmet; couples restaurant adventure; talic writing; luncheon adventure; mahjong; and tennis groups.

Mary Ann finds these groups particularly gratifying as a way to meet new people and to broaden one's outlook on life in the community. She would also find it rewarding, she remarked, to steer the club toward more service oriented activities.

Some of the club's recent programs have included a talk on oriental rugs, a flower arranging demonstration, De-

cember cocktail parties, a stenciling demonstration, an annual spring fashion show, and installation luncheon. The club capped off the year with a roundtrip boat tour June 2 between Hull and Boston which featured spirits, hors d'oeuvres, and a sparkling view of the coastline.

A September coffee will welcome the newest of the newcomers and will be publicized during the summer, along with the designated meeting place for the upcoming year.

Be sure to mark your calendars, especially if you are contacted by the Scituate Welcome Wagon Hostess Diane Dunbar or by the Cohasset Hostess Ann Bush during the summer month.

New club officers are: first vice president and program director Jean Morrison of Scituate; second vice president and interest group coordinator Barbara Turnbull of Cohasset; Treasurer Debbie Elder of Scituate; Secretary Sandy Bieryla of Scituate and Historian Pat Beddows of Cohasset.

Appointed officers covering club activities are: membership, Laura Asherton of Cohasset and Pat Jones of Scituate;

telephone chairman, Meg Manning of Cohasset and Kay Artman of Scituate; ways and means, Christie DiBeneditto of Scituate; newsletter (which comes out monthly), Deidre Barrett and Nancy Bruno of Cohasset; public relations, Judy Volungis of Cohasset; correspondence secretary, Ruth Medrow of Cohasset; and refreshments, Betty Russell, Charlotte Riley and Mary Smith, all of Cohasset.

Organizations which receive donations from the club include: fish, Jaws for life, Scituate Youth Center, and the Cohasset Community Center. A scholarship fund for a graduating senior in both Scituate and Cohasset has also been established.



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